PRONUNCIATION, ORTHOGRAPHY, AND SYNTAX

GENERAL MEDICINE 2

OUTLINE

- Orthography, diacritic
- Pronunciation
- Word classes in Basic Medical Terminology
- Relations of word classes in BMT

Orthography

- Classic Latin had different orthography and pronunciation.

- For example: originally only capital letters were used, "u" was expressed using "v" (*IANVARIUS* instead of *JANUARIUS*) etc.

- Classic Latin also used diacritic signs namely macron (*vēna*). Today macron is used only in textbooks and dictionaries. Physicians do not use diacritics.

Alphabet

- Roman alphabet (Latin alphabet) is based on Greek which was created from Phoenician alphabet.

- Following letters were used in the beginning: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, V.

- Non-native letters:

  - Z is used for Greek loanwords containing consonant zeta ζ.

  - PH, TH, and CH stand for Greek loanwords with Φ (phi), Θ (theta) and X (chi).

  - Y is another letter influenced by Greeks. It is pronounced as [i] in Latin.

- J was originally expressed by "I". In so called church Latin or medieval pronunciation often both can be used: *iustitia* x *justitia*.

- The distinction between "U" (vowel) and "V" (consonant) was introduced later to avoid confusion.

- There was no "K" in the classic Latin, on the other hand "C" was always pronounced as [k]. Later, "K" was adopted for Greek loanwords and in medieval Latin the pronunciation of "C" was divided to [k] or [ts].

Pronunciation

- Pronunciation of Latin language is different depending on region and/or historical context.

- We have basically two possibilities:

    - **English pronunciation** (very different from all others, applies English pronunciation rules to Latin words)

    - so called "church Latin" - **mediaeval pronunciation** used with small variations throughout the rest of Europe, including Czech Republic, Germany, Italy etc.

- Latin orthography is "phonetic" i. e. "what you see is what you pronounce".

- List of the most distinct differences follows:

Letter	Example	IPA phonetic	Czech equivalent	English pronunciation
ae (æ)	saepe, bonae	[e:]	é	/eɪ/ or /iː/
c followed by [e,i]	cista, caeruleus	[ts]	c	/s/
ch	pulcher	[x]	ch	/k/
ē (and other vowels with macrons)	vēna	[e:]	é	/ɛ/, /eɪ/ or /iː/
g followed by [e,i]	agimus	[g]	g	/dʒ/
h	homo	[h]	h	/h/ or /-/
oe (œ)	foetus	[e:]	é	/iː/
qu	questio	[kv]	kv	/kw/
sc followed by [e,i]	ascites	[sts]	sc	/s/
ti followed by vowel and not precedented by s,x	fractio	[tsi]	ci	/ʃɪ/ (in Czech ši)

Examples

- *ruptura musculi bicipitis*
- [ruptu:ra muskuli bitsipitis]

- *lagoena aquae*
- [lage:na akve:]

- *caput hominis*
- [kaput h(!)ominis]

- *intestinum caecum*
- [intestinum tse:kum]

- *fractura carpi*
- [fraktura karpi]

- *philosophia, thesis, menorhea*
- [filozofia, t(h)esis, menorhea]

- *vagina, fascia, staphylococus aureus*
- [vagina (not -dʒ-), fastsia, stafilokokus aureus]

Word Classes in
Basic Medical Terminology

- Various languages have various sets of word classes.

- English   use   following   classes:

nouns	**conjunctions**
pronouns	**adverbs**
adjectives	**interjections**
verbs	**articles (a/the)**
prepositions	

- Medical terminology uses only nouns, adjectives, (verbs, prepositions are required for GM) and as a semi-independent category also numerals.

Relations between word classes

- **Noun - noun** relation (if a noun becomes an attribute of other dominant noun)

  - fracture of **bone** – *fractura **ossis***. (The attribute is in bold type.)

- **Noun - adjective** relation (an adjective is attribute of the noun).

  - complicated fracture – *fractura complicata*.

Noun - noun relation

- Remember: the second noun (i.e. the attribute) must be given in the genitive case. In other words: the word after the "of" in English will be in genitive.

- Both grammatical numbers can be used (Sg. or Pl.).

Examples

- fracture of scapula

- rupture of vein

- bottle of vine

- *fractura + scapula =* **fractura scapulae** (scapulae is in Gen.)

- *ruptura + vena =* **ruptura venae** (venae is in Gen.)

- *lagoena + vinum =* **lagoena vini** (vini is Gen. case)

Instructions

- **Step 1:** Verify that you have two nouns.

- **Step 2:** Translate both words to Latin.

- **Step 3:** Transform the 2nd noun to Genitive grammatical case (i. e. replace its nominative ending with genitive one).

Notes

- This relation says **nothing** about the dominant member of the link. It could be in nominative, or in genitive depending on context.

- Grammatical numbers (singular/plural) are preserved during the transformation.

Noun - adjective

- The dominant component is always a noun.
- You must extract following information from the noun:

  - grammatical gender,
  - grammatical case,
  - grammatical number.

- Then you those parameters to the given adjective. This process may result in similar ending (example: *vena saphena*), but usually not (*vena lateralis*).

Instructions

- Step 1: analyse the noun and extract **gender**, **case**, and **number** information.

- Step 2: Transform the adjective to required form.

Examples

- short illness
  noun: *morbus*
  (masculine, Nom., Sg.)
  adjective: *brevis*

- long bone
  noun: *os*
  (neutral, Nom., Sg. form of
  the noun)
  adjective: *longus*

- *morbus brevis*
  "brevis" is masculine, Nom.,
  Sg. form of the adjective

- *os longum*
  "longum" is neutral, singular
  form in Nominative
  grammatical case.

Other relations

- During the summer term you will learn following additional relations:

  - preposition – noun
  - preposition – noun – adjective

Summary

- Go to the vocabulary.pdf and read all the nouns from the 1st declension at least once aloud.

- Start to memorise words from the 1st declension.

- Review grammar, write down any question that comes to your mind, ask at the beginning of the next lesson.